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Land swaps in Duxburrow-Kingston

Continued from last week

Now we come to the complicated part: a property trade like an NBA threeteam trade where you are wondering who got what.

John Howland, Abraham Pearce, Joseph Rogers and Gov. William Bradford made a series of land swaps that many people would not even try to figure out.

But, one person, Emily F.

Drew, a Kingston historian, tried and, I believe, she has it right. A summary of her explanation follows.

In 1638, John Howland bought "a lot and a half" (30 acres) on the Duxborrow side from Lt.

William Holmes between the lands of Joseph Biddle and Constance Southworth with three acres of meadow. In a Gov.

William Bradford's deed, the statement is made that Mr. John Howland had exchanged the piece of 30 acres plus three with Joseph Rogers of Duxborrow for a lot of 20 acres and three acres of marsh meadow lying at the Jones River Bridge on the north side of said river.

In 1646, Joseph Rogers, now the owner of the 30-acre piece exchanged it with Abraham Pearce for his lots at Stony Brook lying next on the southerly side of the land of Mr. William Bradford and easterly to the Jones River and northerly to the lands of Thomas Willett (southerly?). This includes the land where the Maj.

John Bradford house and Abrahms Hill are located.

Note that this property abuts Gov. William Bradford's property.

Ms. Drew continues with "this leaves...": John Howland in possession of the 20 acres and 3 acres of marsh meadow where the Dewing and Lyman houses are located (circa 1930s), (part of the Joseph Rogers' holding at the Kingston Nook); Joseph Rogers in possession of the Abrahms Hill property, which included the land where the Maj. John Bradford house was later built; and, Abraham Pearce in possession of the 30 acres plus three acres of meadow at the Island Creek. He also got possession of the Harry and Thurston Clark property (the "Island" at Island Creek – 70 acres and five acres of meadow, which he later, 1692-3, sold to John Dotey.) In 1646, Joseph Rogers sold the property that he had acquired to Gov. William Bradford, the man who we believe, gave him his start in life.

The governor annexed the property to his farm at Stony Brook. On Bradford Road behind the house lots that front on Summer Street, there is a boulder with a tablet attached that commemorates the three generations of Bradfords who lived on the farm.

Joseph Rogers moved on to Eastham (then Nauset) in 1647 where he became a lieutenant and exercised the men in arms and also became a selectman there. Many leaders in the Colony moved there with the idea that Eastham would become the county seat.

The Rogers family did experience some tragedy both before and after Joseph's death in 1677-8. His son, Joseph, Jr. was killed in 1661 when John Hawes of Yarmouth was accused of "takeing away the life of Joseph Rogers of Eastham by giving him a most deadly fall....whereof he....about 48 hours after died." Hawes was found not guilty. Hannah Rogers, Joseph's granddaughter by his son Thomas, married Amaziah Harding, who strangled Hannah to death in 1733. Amaziah was proven guilty and was executed in Barnstable in 1734. Luckily Joseph did not live to see this happen. The Joseph Rogers property was later to become a part of Ah-De-Nah, a commercial cottage development started in 1929 by Waldo F. and Edgar W. Loring.

A case of poor timing, as the Depression set in and the development was never completed. Jones River Drive was to be successfully developed in the 1950s.



BY LAMONT "MONTY" HEALTY

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